

**Dr Neville Buch**  
MPHA (Qld)  
Historian



**History & Philosophy  
In Queensland**  
Dr Neville Buch

*Understanding history is philosophy in practice*

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[www.drnevillebuch.com/](http://www.drnevillebuch.com/)

[www.historyandphilosophyinquensland.com/](http://www.historyandphilosophyinquensland.com/)

<https://mappingbrisbanehistory.com.au/>

ABN 86703686642

Wednesday, 14 April 2021

cc. Lord Mayor, re: Ref: LM04593-2020

and several other Councillors concerned with this issue.

Dear Councillor Howard,

I petition you on what I see, as a historian of great depth and scope for our City, a great neglect and ask that you initiate the culture and policy change. The Council has never had a public education area to properly introduce Brisbane residents to the widest scope of the city's history.

This might appear at first glance as wrongheaded, but I assure you I have at hand the large, global, literature to show you that my petition has extraordinary weight across many fields of study. I am one of the few scholars in Queensland who has published on areas of the failure of community education in the current climate of higher education policies, heritage historiography, and the new GLAM politics and its limitation in education.

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This is not a concern of mine alone. Indeed, if you would only understand how our education on the history of the City of Brisbane has become so reductive, you would understand the alarm of many artists, scholars, and other practitioners across the City.

I have come to write to you through the suggestion of The Gabba Ward Office (Cr. Jonathan Sri). Their concern has been for a public educative space in Musgrave Park which would profile and educate on the city's First Nations history.

It seems to me, as an accomplished philosophic-socio-intellectual historian, that resistance to these types of community educational spaces is a matter of a ridiculous political judgement based on a fallacious understanding of the "cultural-history wars".

I have no partisan agenda. Your political opponents have no favours by me raising the matter with you and the Lord Mayor. If you finally decide for reason, logic, and compassion on this issue, and did produce a wide-scoping public education space for the *histories* of the City of Brisbane, you will have the political advantage.

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A representative in the Premier's Office has written back to me, today, and has informed me that the matter of education funding policies will be raised with the Honourable Grace Grace MP, Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing.

It seems to me that here is an opportunity for local government to seek support from the Queensland Government regarding funding in any Brisbane City Council public community education program, along the lines I am proposing.

I conclude this petition by pointing out that, although there never had been a public education area to properly introduce Brisbane residents to the widest scope of the city's history, the City and State has had significantly funded community education programs and well into the past. Often, they came to an end for partisan reasons.

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I hope the current Council does not make a similar mistake and fail to grasp the opportunity.

Kind regards,

**Dr Neville Buch MPHA (Qld),  
Ph.D. (History) UQ., Grad. Dip. Arts (Philosophy) Melb., Grad. Dip. (Education) UQ.**

*Director*

Brisbane Southside History Network Project (BSHN)



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*Project Manager*

Mapping Brisbane Southside History Project (MBSH)  
2014-2017 (amalgamated into the Mapping Brisbane History Project)



An Initiative of the Coopers Plains Local History Group Inc.  
Funded by the Brisbane City Council Community History Grant

*Project Manager*

Mapping Brisbane History Project (MBH)



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